

From: Don Bates
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 11:36pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft: Having been a Microsoft Windows user for over a decade, I would like to take a moment to go on record supporting the recent settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. In my opinion Microsoft has been a target of unfair criticism over the years. Sure, as a Windows user I've had my share of headaches but I feel that overall the product is reasonably priced and a valuable addition to my lifestyle. I am pleased that the three-year-old antitrust suit against Microsoft is now over and being put to rest.

You are well aware of the terms of the settlement where Microsoft agreed to not enter into any agreements forcing any third party to distribute or promote any Windows technology exclusively. Personally, I'm pleased to see that Microsoft is being forced to turn over intellectual property to its competitors. This allows for software that is more compatible with Windows to be produced and allows for competition.

All in all, I am happy with the settlement because it is going to be beneficial to the American economy, the tech industry, and competition and in the end the consumer.

Sincerely, Donald Bates, Cincinnati, Ohio

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